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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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**ITALIAN OUTPUT OF TOBACCO
PRODUCTS CONTINUES UPWARD**

Output of tobacco products by the Italian Tobacco Monopoly in 1955 totaled 106.0 million pounds, up 2.2 percent from the 103.8 million pounds produced in 1954. Cigarette output rose significantly, more than offsetting decreases in the output of other products. Cigarette production accounted for 83.1 percent of total output as compared with 60.0 percent prewar. Cut tobacco during 1955 represented only 11.4 percent in contrast to 21.9 percent prewar. The combined output of snuff, cigars and cigarillos was only about one-half the prewar level.

Italy: Output of tobacco products during 1955, with comparisons

Product	1953	1954	1955
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
	:	:	:
Cigarettes.....	77,987	85,129	88,367
Cigars and cigarillos.....	5,139	4,414	4,394
Cut tobacco.....	11,484	13,020	12,130
Snuff.....	1,248	1,239	1,148
	:	:	:
Total.....	95,858	103,802	106,039

Source: Bollettino mensile di Statistic, March 1956

**COLOMBIA PLANS TO
PRODUCE BURLEY**

Colombian Institute officials plan to increase the production of high-quality tobacco, principally Burley, according to a recent report. Institute officials believe they can produce the same varieties of Burley, especially Dickie Bright, as Venezuela, since Colombia has much the same soil and climatic conditions. Colombian officials contend that the future prosperity of tobacco production will depend largely on exports. They believe that the country could become a larger exporter because of the strong demand for Colombian leaf in some European markets. The average export price of dark Colombia leaf in 1955 was equivalent to 21.6 United States cents per pound.

**BELGIUM INCREASES
CIGARETTE RETAIL PRICES**

Retail prices of cigarettes in Belgium were increased on April 9, 1956 to the equivalent of about 1.0 United States cent per pack of 20. The five percent sales tax on cigarettes and smoking mixtures was reduced to 4.2 and 1.0 percent, respectively.

INDONESIA SUBSIDIZES CIGAR TOBACCO EXPORTS

The Indonesian Monetary Council has placed a 10 percent premium on the exports of Vorstenlands cigar tobacco, according to a recent report. This subsidy became effective on May 5, 1956, with the primary purpose to expand cigar leaf exports.

FRENCH CONSUMPTION OF UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO DOWN 9.6 PERCENT

Leaf consumption by the French Tobacco Monopoly in 1955 totaled 146.3 million pounds, 13.7 million pounds below the 1954 record high of 160.0 million pounds. The decline in usings is attributed to the large carry-over of tobacco products, principally cigarettes, at the beginning of 1955.

France: Consumption of unmanufactured tobacco, by types, for 1955 with comparisons

Source of Tobacco	1953	1954	1955
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Domestic.....	84,826	91,894	82,108
French Overseas Territories.....	27,873	31,477	29,118
United States:			
Flue-cured.....	1,739	1,845	2,066
Burley.....	320	384	1,845
Maryland.....	121	174	165
Ky.-Tenn. fire-cured.....	2,701	2,712	2,749
Other types 1/	392	289	1,023
Total U. S. A.	5,273	5,404	7,848
Other Western Hemisphere.....	4,288	4,956	4,963
Oriental.....	21,054	18,999	17,511
Others.....	7,317	7,273	4,782
Total.....	150,631	160,003	146,330

1/ Largely dark air-cured.

Source: S.E.I.T.A. (French Tobacco Monopoly)

Consumption of United States leaf increased 2.4 million pounds over the 1954 level of 5.4 million pounds. Usings of Burley and dark air-cured (One-sucker and Green River) increased 1.5 and .7 million pounds respectively, over the 1954 levels. Usings of flue-cured continued to increase moderately. Consumption of South American leaf was about the same as for the previous year. Domestic, oriental, territorial and leaf from other sources declined in importance last year.

Consumption of tobacco products in 1955 increased 2 percent over the 1954 totals of 124.2 million pounds, but was 3.6 million pounds below the 1953 record high of 130.3 million pounds. Cigarette consumption was 4.5 percent larger than the 1954 total of 80.6 million pounds, in contrast to output which declined 6.8 million pounds from the 1954 record high of 88.1 million pounds. Both output and consumption of cigars and cigarillos continued upward, while snuff, chewing and cut tobacco continued their downward trend.

REVISED ESTIMATES ON PHILIPPINE DARK LEAF TOBACCO

During the first week of May several surveys were made of the damage to crops by floods, which followed typhoon "Thelma" in the Cagayan Valley. It now appears that the dark tobacco crop may range from about 10 to 11.5 million pounds, representing a crop loss of almost 50 percent. Monetary loss in tobacco is placed at 5 million pesos (\$2.5 million U.S.).

Additional information has been received concerning the dark leaf tobacco crop in the Visayan Islands. While tobacco was not directly damaged by typhoons, excessive rainfall, coupled with improper drainage of fields, has brought about lower forecasts. Earlier it was believed that the Visayan crop might reach some 7 million pounds, but now the estimate has been revised downward to approximately 5 million pounds. It is further reported that the quality of the crop has suffered because of undue moisture conditions.

These developments add up to considerably smaller supplies of dark leaf tobacco for the current year. With smaller supplies, prices will probably rise considerably and smaller exports are bound to result. As prices advance materially, the shipments to the United States may be among the smallest in any recent years.

UNITED STATES EXPORTS OF
UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO MARCH, 1956

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in March 1956 totaled 27.5 million pounds, valued at \$17.1 million. This was 25 percent lower than exports for March 1955, which totaled 36.9 million pounds at a value of \$21.5 million. Exports of flue-cured, Burley, dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, Maryland and Green River tobacco declined in March 1956 from the corresponding month last year. Exports of cigar wrapper increased about 57 percent. For the month of March this year the principal destination was West Germany, which took 384,000 pounds.

Total exports of all types of tobacco at 102.9 million pounds for the first 3 months of 1956, were about 7 percent greater than the January-March 1955 period when exports totaled 95.8 million pounds. Exports of flue-cured tobacco for the January-March 1956 period totaled 79.7 million pounds, an increase of 13 percent over exports for the same period last year, which totaled 70.5 million pounds. There were substantial increases in exports of dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, Virginia fire-cured and sun-cured, Maryland tobacco and Cigar Wrapper. Exports of Burley tobacco decreased about 38 percent from the January-March period of 1955.

United States: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco, March 1956 and January-March 1956, with comparisons (export weight)

Type	March		Percent Change	January - March		Percent Change
	1955	1956		1955	1956	
	1,000 pounds			1,000 pounds		
Flue-cured.....	24,189	20,222	-16.4	70,520	79,754	+13.1
Burley.....	4,607	2,248	-51.2	9,877	6,094	-38.3
Dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee..	3,670	2,339	-36.3	6,067	8,110	+33.7
Virginia fire-cured 1/.....	255	387	+51.8	1,028	1,675	+62.9
Black Fat.....	461	563	+22.1	1,340	1,063	-20.7
Maryland.....	901	687	-23.8	1,753	3,202	+82.6
Green River.....	590	8	-98.7	1,435	381	-73.5
Cigar Wrapper.....	291	456	+56.7	810	1,094	+35.1
Other 2/.....	1,905	609	-68.0	3,001	1,524	-49.2
Total.....	36,869	27,519	-25.4	95,831	102,897	+ 7.4
Declared value(million dollars):	21.5	17.1	-20.5	59.6	64.1	+ 7.6

1/ Includes sun-cured. 2/ Includes one-sucker, cigar binder and filler, Perique and stems, trimmings and scrap. These were classified in a blanket category beginning January 1956.

The total value of March exports of tobacco products, at \$5.4 million, was about 2 percent higher than for March 1955. For the 3 months January-March 1956, cigarette exports were about 12 percent lower than for the same period last year, but exports of smoking tobacco in bulk were 10 percent higher.

United States: Exports of tobacco products, March 1956 and January - March 1956, with comparisons

Class of Product	March		Percent Change	January-March		Percent Change
	1955	1956		1955	1956	
			Percent			Percent
Cigarettes						
(Million Pieces).....	1,243	1,250	+.6	3,799	3,356	-11.7
Smoking Tobacco in Bulk:						
(1,000 pounds).....	735	457	-37.8	1,496	1,640	+9.6
Declared Value 1/						
(Million Dollars)....	5.3	5.4	+1.9	15.7	14.4	-8.3

1/ Includes value of tobacco manufactures not separately shown.

Compiled in Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

ANGOLAN SISAL PRODUCTION
CONTINUES INCREASE

Sisal production in Angola (Portuguese West Africa) reached a record of an estimated 89.7 million pounds in the calendar year 1955. The crop was valued at 6.7 million dollars. The increase in production is more than 30 percent over the preceding year and $9\frac{1}{4}$ times the output in 1942. The increase except for 1945-47, has been continuous since World War II.

Angolan consumption of sisal is negligible, and exports are the same as estimated production. The value of exported sisal increased faster than the quantity from 1942 through 1951 because of the rising price level. However, since the price break, the production from earlier plantings has continued to increase.

Sisal is one of the leading exports from Angola, and probably will continue to hold its rank in importance. The average declared price of 7.46 cents a pound in 1955 was still considered favorable enough to encourage the expanding of production.

The price had risen to 5.72 cents in 1945, but reached a peak of 23.02 cents in 1951. The drop in price was 13.73 cents during the following 2 years, and another 2 cents during the past 2 years.

The principal export market is France with approximately 30 percent of the total. It is followed by Germany with about 20 percent, and Portugal, Belgium, and the Netherlands with somewhat less than 10 percent each. Spain, the United States and Sweden account for roughly 5 percent each, and various other countries of the world receive small quantities.

PAKISTAN'S 1955-56 VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE
EQUALS LAST YEAR'S; 1955 OILCAKE EXPORTS TRIPLED

Production of vegetable oils in Pakistan during the 1955-56 marketing year is estimated at about 150,000 short tons, which is approximately the same as the 1954-55 output calculated from official crop data.

PAKISTAN: Production of specified oilseeds and oils,
crop years 1954-55 and 1955-56

(1,000 short tons)

Commodity	1954-55		1955-56	
	Seed 1/	Oil 2/	Seed 3/	Oil 2/
Cottonseed.....	629	43	627	47
Rapeseed and mustard seed.....	363	90	352	85
Sesame seed.....	40	13	41	15
Flaxseed.....	16	6	16	6
Total.....	1,048	152	1,036	153

1/ Revised, official. 2/ Calculated from seed production and estimated utilization. 3/ Preliminary, unofficial.

Total 1955 imports of vegetable oils were 13,348 tons, compared to 1954 imports of 2,186 tons. Only 4,887 tons of oilseeds (unspecified) were imported in 1955, against 7,782 the previous year. Coconut oil made up the bulk (10,356 tons) of the 1955 imports, and was reportedly used in the manufacture of soap and hair oil.

Commercial imports from the United States in 1955 included 1,807 tons of unspecified vegetable oils, 440 tons of linseed oil, and 2,245 tons of tallow. In addition, 9,122 tons of United States cottonseed oil arrived in late 1955 for emergency relief under Title II of Public Law 480. This oil was fed into consumption through normal trade channels.

Exports of 83,795 tons of oilcakes in 1955--mainly to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands--were nearly three times as high as 1954 exports. Although oilcake and meal are badly needed at home for the feeding of Pakistan's cattle, they compete with India and East Africa for foreign exchange in the European market.

With processing capacity at about 30,000 tons, vanaspati (hydrogenated vegetable oil) production totaled more than 16,000 tons in 1955. However, shortages of cottonseed oil and tinplate are still said to be limiting the output of this commodity.

Prices of edible oils declined substantially in 1955. In the case of cottonseed oil, which dropped nearly 25 percent from January to December--from Rs. 57 per maund (20.8 cents per pound) to Rs. 42 (10.7 cents) wholesale at Karachi--the relatively small arrivals of U. S. cottonseed oil reportedly calmed the market. 1/ Mustard oil at Karachi in December wholesaled for little more than half the January price. Prices of other edible oils either held steady or declined during the year.

This phenomenon is made more significant by the general price rise which followed devaluation of the rupee on August 1. While wholesale wheat, rice and pulse prices shot up from 17 to 37 percent between July 2 and December 17, 1955, the average prices of vegetable oils and oilseeds actually declined by 8 and 13 percent, respectively, during the same period. The retail price of vegetable oils dropped 7 percent, while the average retail price level (as calculated by the American Embassy) went up nearly 6 percent.

However, at the end of April 1956, East Pakistan was again experiencing an acute oilseed shortage. Six oil mills are reported to have closed down and a number of others face imminent stoppage. One of the factors contributing to this shortage has been the lack of adequate shipping space from West Pakistan. Wholesale prices of mustard oil in East Pakistan spurted to Rs. 105 per maund (26.8 cents per pound) at the end of April, a 60 percent jump from the January level.

A considerable increase in fats and oils availabilities and consumption is desirable in Pakistan. According to nutritionists, the per capita intake of fats in the country needs to be doubled. There is little likelihood of any appreciable increase in animal fats production. However, there do seem to be possibilities for an expansion of vegetable oil production. Of most immediate and practical value is the potential for an immediate increase in cottonseed crushings, through the enlargement and improvement of crushing facilities. The percentage of available cottonseed which is crushed for oil is reportedly rising each year; thus, it will probably not be too long before the entire crop will be crushed for an annual oil production, at present yields, of about 80,000 tons compared with last year's estimated 47,000.

Studies have been undertaken, with the help of the United States Operations Mission, of the possibilities of improving the production of copra and coconut oil in East Pakistan. Efforts of the West Pakistan Department of Agriculture to grow peanuts in the Rawalpindi District resulted in a 1955 crop of over 800,000 pounds. Reports indicate successful experiments with tung and olive trees in the frontier area of Peshawar.

1/ Conversions made at the rate of 30 cents per rupee prior to August 1, at 21 cents thereafter.

Meanwhile, the limited domestic production available, is being protected by relatively high import tariffs, even though the basic problem seems to be the creation of sufficient mass purchasing power to enable the people to buy more food, including fats and oils. Cottonseed and peanut oils are dutiable at 42 percent ad valorem (32 percent for oil of Commonwealth origin). A fixed tariff valuation is used to calculate the duty for cottonseed oil, currently amounting to Rs. 30 per maund (7.7 cents per pound) for PBSY, and Rs. 33 (8.4 cents) for fully refined oil. Hence, the specific duty on U. S. PBSY cottonseed oil at this time amounts to Rs. 12.6 per maund (3.2 cents per pound), on fully refined to Rs. 13.86 (3.5 cents). Other current tariffs on principal oils and oilseeds are as follows:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>General Rate</u>	<u>Commonwealth Preferential Rate</u>
--Percent ad valorem--		
Coconut oil	30	20
Linseed oil	15	5 (valued at Rs. 5 per imperial gallon)
Marine oil	30	--
Tung oil	30	--
Copra	30	20
Oilseeds, others	42	32
Oilcakes	30	--

An excise tax of Rs. 5 per cwt. (1.3 cents per pound) is levied on Pakistan-produced hydrogenated vegetable oils.

PHILIPPINE PRODUCTION MINOR VEGETABLE FIBERS CONSIDERABLY BELOW PREWAR

Minor fibers of the Philippine Republic are now being produced in lesser quantities than before 1940. Maguey has dropped to only 1.3 percent of the prewar average, and canton to only a fraction of 1 percent. Maguey, buntal fiber, and kapok increased in 1955 over 1954, but ramie and canton decreased. Jute increased, but production was on an experimental basis. Kenaf and sisal output is negligible.

MAGUEY. Production of government-inspected maguey in the Philippine Republic increased in 1955 to 376,000 pounds from a total of 274,000 in 1954, but was still considerably less than the postwar peak of 5.3 million pounds in 1951, and the prewar average of 27.9 million.

Exports decreased in 1955 to 247,000 pounds from 283,000 in 1954. Practically all of the inspected fiber is exported. Reduced demand for maguey is due to the availability of competing fibers from other countries and the relatively high cost of production of the Philippine fiber.

Singapore furnishes the principal market for the maguey, accounting for 198,000 pounds in 1955 and 213,000 in 1954, or 80 percent and 75 percent, respectively, of the total exports. Consumption of maguey included 4,500 pounds of inspected fiber and an insignificant quantity of unbaled fiber.

RAMIE. Balings of government inspected ramie fiber in 1955 totaled 2.8 million pounds, or a decrease of 14 percent from the 3.3 million in 1954. There is a large local demand for ramie textiles, but production of the fiber has been limited to foreign demand of the raw fiber due to the lack of degumming, spinning, and weaving mills in the Philippine Republic. Fiber exported to Japan is imported back into the Philippines as finished yarns and fabrics.

Production is expected to increase with the construction of a 3.5 million dollar textile mill in the Philippines, which plans to begin ramie fabric manufacture by 1957. Other processing mills are planned.

A total of 2.0 million pounds of ramie fiber was exported from the Philippines in 1955, compared with 2.7 million in 1954. Of these totals, Japan accounted for 1.7 and 2.3 million pounds, respectively, in the 2 years. Only 51,000 pounds were shipped to the United States in the past year.

BUNTAL. Production of buntal fiber increased from 291,000 pounds of inspected fiber in 1954 to 399,000 in 1955. The entire supply was exported to Hong Kong. Domestic consumption of uninspected fiber is used principally in making hats. A total of nearly 195,700 buntal hats, valued at over \$305,000 were exported in 1954, mostly to the United States. During the first 6 months of 1955, nearly 56,000 hats, valued at \$79,000 were exported, again almost the entire supply went to the United States.

KAPOK. Production is estimated at 6.5 million pounds in 1955, an increase of 6 percent over the 6.0 million in the preceding year. Most of it is exported to Japan and the United States. Stocks remain at about 56,000 pounds. Local consumption is small.

JUTE AND OTHER FIBERS. Jute is a newly introduced crop in the Philippine Republic and is still on an experimental basis. About 35,000 pounds were produced from 245 acres in 1955, compared with 24,000 pounds from 158 acres in 1954. The total crop was consumed domestically in the manufacture of bags. Imported jute is obtained from Pakistan.

Kenaf and sisal production are negligible. Their relatively high cost of production in the Philippines makes it difficult for them to compete with other countries.

AUSTRALIA REACHES AGREEMENT ON RICE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

An agreement was negotiated on April 11 between the Commonwealth of Australia and Territory Rice Limited giving the latter syndicate an option on 750,000 acres in northern Australia. This agreement, which was approved by the Northern Territory Legislative Council, provides for 30-year leases with the stipulation that 500,000 of the 750,000 acres must be taken up within 15 years, and that 5,000 acres must be taken up in each of the first 3 years.

The potential rice area included in the agreement is located on the sub-coastal plains from east of Darwin to the Arnhem Land border and down the watersheds of the Adelaide, Mary, and West, South and East Alligator Rivers. A preliminary survey shows that there is a total of approximately 2 million acres of potential rice land in the Northern Territory. Other interests may take up such lands not subject to leases granted under the agreement with Territory Rice Limited.

The main problems of growing rice in the area are adequate water control and drainage, determination of cultivation techniques for soil conditions as found in the territory, and the seed production of a suitable rice variety for the rainfall, temperature, and soil conditions of the area. At the present time about 100 varieties are under test, comprising long-, medium-, and short-grain varieties. Although no statement on the most suitable varieties has been released, it is believed that long-grain varieties, including Blue Bonnet, have proved most suitable.

This development project was undertaken following surveys and experimentation which began at the end of World War II, when rice was in short supply. Preliminary investigations in 1946 in the Northern Territory indicated that possibilities existed in certain areas of the Katherine-Darwin region, and in 1949-50 results of more specific investigations supported these conclusions.

Following further investigations, the Commonwealth Government approved in 1952 the establishment by the Northern Territory Administration of two rice experiment stations; one at "Humpty Doo", and another at "Sixty Mile". Seed was imported from Malaya, the Philippine Republic and the United States.

Apparently favorable results from experiments in the next 2 years led representatives of an Australian-American syndicate to commence negotiations for a large area in the region for rice development leases. In September of that year, it was indicated that such a proposal was attractive from the Australian point of view in that it would shorten by many years the development of rice growing in the Northern Territory.

The syndicate which was established, the Territory Rice Limited, is headed by a United States citizen. This organization acquired on its own account the use of 250 acres from a private owner, and conducted experiments. At the same time it was building up seed supplies for larger areas, provided a suitable arrangement could be made with the Commonwealth Government.

In 1955-56, Australian administration plantings were 60 acres at Humpty Doo and 30 acres at Sixty Mile. Territory Rice Limited plantings in 1955-56 reached 300 acres. Harvesting is not yet completed, and statistics on estimated yields have not been released, but unofficial sources indicate yields have been obtained of from 2,200 to 3,350 pounds of rough rice per acre. On the strength of the tests made since 1954-55, Territory Rice Limited requested leases for the large area which were granted in the April 11 agreement.

SMALLER FRENCH SEED CROP IN PROSPECT

It is still too early to make an accurate forecast of French seed production, but it seems fairly certain that the crimson clover crop will be very small because most fields had to be replanted this spring. Alfalfa, on the other hand, probably was not seriously damaged by the freeze. Last year's crop of alfalfa and red clover seed apparently was exceptionally good, but considerable quantities were exported and used for heavy spring plantings, so that stocks probably will not be larger than usual.

U. S. RICE EXPORTS INCREASE IN MARCH

United States rice exports in March totaled 1,202,000 bags (100 pounds) in terms of milled, as compared with 486,000 bags in February, and with 1,120,000 bags in the corresponding month of the year before. Principal countries of destination of March exports were Pakistan and Cuba.

Rice exports during the August-March period of the current marketing year amounted to 7,373,000 bags, or 29 percent above 5,722,000 bags in the like period of 1954-55. Shipments to Cuba, the principal country of destination, were 19 percent less than in the corresponding months of a year earlier.

The second largest quantity of rice in the August-March period was shipped to Japan. Exports to countries not taking rice from the United States prior to this year came to 1,513,000 bags; namely, Pakistan, 662,000; French West Africa, 416,000; Indochina, 220,000; and India 215,000 bags.

RICE: United States exports, in terms of milled, to specified countries, March 1956, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August-July		August-March		March	
	1953-54	1954-55	1954-55	1955-56 2/	1955	1956 2/
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags
<u>Western Hemisphere:</u>						
Canada.....	633	560	431	320	28	18
British Honduras.....	17	33	27	29	6	4
Honduras.....	3	30	21	17	7	1
Haiti.....	2	124	55	3	3/	1
Cuba.....	4,755	3,391	2,991	2,422	162	418
Netherlands Antilles..	53	38	28	20	3	2
Bolivia.....	5	0	0	153	0	0
Colombia.....	314	205	201	10	10	0
Venezuela.....	215	84	82	32	22	16
Other countries.....	30	10	5	62	1	44
Total.....	6,027	4,475	3,841	3,068	239	504
<u>Europe:</u>						
Belgium & Luxembourg..	206	460	195	153	26	1
Greece.....	11	5	5	3/	3/	0
Ireland.....	0	16	16	0	0	0
West Germany.....	29	38	9	27	0	0
Netherlands.....	12	71	7	5	0	0
Sweden.....	1	72	70	9	3/	3/
Switzerland.....	57	53	49	19	0	2
Other countries.....	24	4/	99	4	1	3
Total.....	340	814	359	217	27	6
<u>Asia:</u>						
India.....	0	0	3/	215	0	0
Indochina.....	0	0	0	220	0	0
Korea, Republic of....	590	3/	3/	0	0	0
Japan.....	8,538	4,125	1,243	2,282	849	1
Pakistan.....	0	0	0	662	0	662
Saudi Arabia.....	130	136	123	63	2	0
Philippines.....	3/	25	3/	22	0	0
Other countries.....	25	11	9	18	1	4
Total.....	9,283	4,297	1,375	3,482	852	667
Total Oceania.....	17	19	16	24	0	3
Liberia.....	67	219	119	134	0	16
French West Africa....	0	0	0	416	0	0
Other Africa.....	6	10	5	15	1	1
Other 6/.....	8	14	7	17	1	5
Total world.....	15,748	9,848	5,722	7,373	1,120	1,202

1/ Includes brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice, and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Includes 58,000 bags to Trieste and 23,000 bags to Austria. 5/ Adjusted to include all programs of the Department of Defense and the International Cooperation Administration.

6/ Starting with January 1954, "other" includes shipments valued at less than \$500 each when the number of such shipments to a country in a given month is few.

Source: Bureau of the Census, except as noted.

RICE: United States exports, by country of destination
and by classification, March 1956 1/

Country of destination	Rough		Milled		Total (in terms of milled)
	Unmilled	In terms of milled	Not over 25% whole	Over 25% whole	
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	
<u>Western Hemisphere:</u>					
Canada.....	1,193	775	983	16,555	18,313
Mexico.....	0	0	0	1,425	1,425
British Honduras.....	0	0	0	4,367	4,367
Honduras.....	0	0	0	998	998
Guatemala.....	100	65	0	0	65
El Salvador.....	150	97	0	0	97
Costa Rica.....	2,850	1,853	0	0	1,853
Panama.....	416	270	0	0	270
Cuba.....	5,375	3,494	26,186	388,599	418,279
Dominican Republic.....	1,100	715	0	0	715
Bahamas.....	0	0	0	11	11
Jamaica.....	0	0	672	184	856
Haiti.....	0	0	0	800	800
Netherlands Antilles.....	0	0	0	1,717	1,717
Chile.....	0	0	0	37,445	37,445
Venezuela.....	25,345	16,474	0	0	16,474
Total.....	36,529	23,743	27,841	452,101	503,685
<u>Europe:</u>					
Belgium & Luxembourg.....	0	0	0	748	748
Austria.....	0	0	0	2,400	2,400
Sweden.....	0	0	0	270	270
Switzerland.....	0	0	0	2,240	2,240
Total.....	0	0	0	5,658	5,658
<u>Asia:</u>					
Hong Kong.....	0	0	4,408	0	4,408
Japan.....	0	0	0	750	750
Pakistan.....	0	0	0	662,182	662,182
Nonsei & Nonpo Islands, n.e.s.	0	0	0	250	250
Total.....	0	0	4,408	663,182	667,590
<u>Africa:</u>					
French Morocco.....	0	0	0	12	12
Liberia.....	0	0	0	16,169	16,169
Mozambique.....	110	72	0	0	72
Union of South Africa.....	0	0	0	1,120	1,120
Total.....	110	72	0	17,301	17,373
Trust territory of the Pacific	0	0	0	2,600	2,600
Other 2/	1,000	650	0	4,277	4,927
Total world.....	37,639	24,465	32,249	1,145,119	1,201,833

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Starting with January 1954, "other" includes shipments valued at less than \$500 each when the number of such shipments to a country is few.

U.S. GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS EXPORTS
CONTINUE AT HIGH LEVELS DURING MARCH

Exports of grass and legume seeds in March 1956 were $2\frac{1}{2}$ times greater than for the same month last year, but the total for the 1955-56 crop year is still only less than half of the corresponding period of the previous "record" year. Considerable volume is moving into South America as compared with former years, and the movement into Europe is also large.

U.S. Exports: Grass and Legume Seeds, March 1956,
with comparisons

Kind of Seed	March		July 1, 1954, to March 31, 1955		July 1, 1955, to March 31, 1956	
	1955	1956 1/				
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
	:	:	:	:	:	:
Alfalfa.....	139	2,276	10,197	10,923		
Alsiike.....	0		532	58		
Other clovers.....	110	469	9,975	1,999		
Fescue.....	119		1,469	420		
Kentucky bluegrass.....	37		1,021	227		
Orchard grass.....	12		200	26		
Redtop.....	12		420	387		
Timothy.....	187		851	555		
Other grasses.....	974	1,286	22,911	7,495		
Total.....	1,590	4,031	47,576	22,090		

1/ Grass and legume seeds data on exports limited to three categories by Bureau of the Census, effective January 1, 1956. "Other clovers" now includes alsike; fescue, etc., have been added to "other grasses".

Compiled from official statistics of the Bureau of the Census.

VENEZUELA CHICK AND HATCHING EGG IMPORTS
AUTHORIZED FOR THIRD QUARTER, 1956

The Venezuela Ministry of Agriculture has authorized the importation of 1,300,000 chicks and 500,000 hatching eggs for the third quarter of 1956.

U.K. IMPORTS OF DRIED EGGS, 1956-57

The British Government's Board of Trade announced May 5, 1956, its licensing arrangements for dried whole hen egg imports for the period from July 1, 1956, to June 30, 1957. Imports of dried whole eggs will be permitted under Open Individual License, if originating in and consigned from sources outside the Scheduled Territories, Muscat and Oman, and other than the United States of America, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Republic of Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Philippines, and Venezuela.

Dried whole eggs, originating in and consigned from China, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany (Russian Zone), Hungary, Poland, Rumania, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will be permitted specific import licenses on a quota basis during July 1, 1956, to December 31, 1956. Licenses will be issued to British traders in proportion to the sum of their total imports of dried whole eggs from the countries concerned during the period March 1, 1954, to February 28, 1955, and half the quantity of dried whole eggs purchased by the British traders of the Ministry of Food during the period of March 1, 1954, to February 28, 1955.

The present intention is to issue to each license holder, towards the end of the year, a further license calculated on the same basis to cover the period from January 1, 1957, to June 30, 1957, for a quantity not less than that of his previous license.

COLOMBIA CHICK IMPORT REGULATIONS

On April 27, 1956 the Colombian Ministry of Agriculture announced that "broiler" day-old chicks in the future can be imported from the United States when they meet the following requirements. They must come from a firm that is included in the Poultry Improvement Plan of the U.S.D.A. and the classification of their category must be "APPROVED". Interested Colombian importers of broiler chicks must register with the Ministry of Agriculture, and will be obliged to declare to their clients and in publications the class of chicks they are distributing, that is, the "Broiler" type. Importers of this type of chicks may not bring into the country, or deal with any other breed of chicks, other than the ones they have been authorized to import.

Eggs that are destined for incubation will correspond as a minimum to categories R.O.P. Certified, or R.O.M., according to the Poultry Improvement Plan of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture may, at any time, adopt any means that it believes desirable for the protection and promotion of Columbia's poultry industry.

MEXICO'S FIRST NATIONAL
POULTRY SHOW

The first National Poultry Show was held in the National Auditorium in Mexico City from April 22 to 29, (see Foreign Agricultural Circular, FPE 4-56, May 17, 1955, titled "Mexico: A **Changing** Market for U.S. Poultry Products"). The show was conducted in three divisions, a commercial exposition, a poultry congress, and technical conferences.

The commercial exposition consisted of 85 exhibits of good composition. Most products were from the United States but presented through Mexican distributors. The most popular exhibit, based on sales during the show, was a demonstration of "back yard" family-size wire laying-cage units. These units were of two sizes, 10 hen and 20 hen units, and were sold complete with birds and feed on a time-payment plan.

The technical conferences were conducted by volunteer speakers from poultry supply organizations in the United States and poultry specialists from the National School of Veterinary Medicine.

The poultry congress which formed the third division of the National Poultry Show, held sessions for five days. It was attended by a large number of delegates registered from all parts of the country. After the first 2 days, however, the number in attendance dropped to between 80 and 100 per day. Three important resolutions were adopted during the fourth day of the Congress. One called for government support prices on eggs at a level equal to cost of production.

The second resolution called for an increase in import duties on baby chicks and tightening of permit requirements, in order that only needed breeding stock could be imported. This resolution was framed and vigorously supported by the few Mexican hatcherymen. Countering pressures from other segments of Mexico's poultry industry have preventing previous moves to raise these duties, and it is believed that this move will be nullified also.

The third resolution created a National Poultry Federation to promote the interest of the Mexican poultry industry. This association is to have broad memberships of producers, hatchery men, equipment dealers, and veterinarians.

VENEZUELAN OFFICIAL
POTATO ESTIMATES

Venezuelan officials estimate the irrigated potato crop now harvested to be 1,653,000 bushels. This is about 184,000 bushels larger than last year's crop. The summer crop in September is estimated at 294,000 bushels. With the 919,000 bushels now held in storage, it is calculated that imports this fall will range from 551,000 to 735,000 bushels. Fairly high prices have prevailed despite the quantity of potatoes in storage.

CANNING FIRMS MERGE TO STRENGTHEN SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPORT POSITION

Early in 1956, two additional canning enterprises, Sinovich Canning Co., Ltd., and Helen MacGregor, were incorporated by the Langeberg Co-operative Limited. With these latest mergers, the Langeberg Co-operative Limited will now control more than one-half of South Africa's export trade in canned products. The merged firms have an annual turnover of more than \$25 million and a production capacity of 160 million pounds. The merging of these firms was accomplished in an effort to secure a greater amount of stability and strengthen the competitive power of the South African canning industry on the export market.

FOREIGN RAISIN CROP PROSPECTS

While Southern Hemisphere raisin crops, now being marketed, are down sharply, large crops may be harvested this fall in the Middle East.

The 1956 Australian sultana crop, as a consequence of very unfavorable drying conditions, appears to be more than 20,000 tons smaller than the 1955 crop. The new crop is now estimated at 45,000 short tons, the smallest since 1951. Earlier, the grape harvest in Australia gave promise of a sultana pack nearly as large as the 1955 pack of 66,700 tons. However, rains and high humidity during the drying period proved disastrous. Trade reports also indicate that the 1956 raisin crop in South Africa is below normal.

Trade and other sources report very favorable growing conditions for the oncoming Turkish and Greek crops, which could lead to a much larger crop than last year in Turkey and another large crop in Greece.

NORWAY LIBERALIZES IMPORTS OF CANNED PINEAPPLE AND PEACHES

It has recently been learned that Norway will liberalize the importation of canned peaches and pineapple as of October 1, 1956. Licenses are expected to be issued after August 1 but customs clearance may not take place prior to October 1. This liberalization is in addition to the dollar quota imports announced in Foreign Crops and Markets on April 2. These imports are expected to enter Norway during June and July.

CITRUS PROJECT FOR SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Work is expected to be started soon on the development of a 40,000-acre project in the Southeastern portion of Southern Rhodesia. The first stage of the project will be 4,000 acres of citrus, to be irrigated by pumping water from the Lundi River. The second stage will involve the construction of the proposed Kyle Dam across the Umtilikwe River, which flows into the Lundi River. The third stage of the project would involve the building of another dam to provide enough water for another 20,000 acres of citrus. This third stage of the project may require 10 to 15 years for completion.

ARGENTINA SHIFTS PASTURES TO GRAINS

The Argentine Government's increase in guaranteed prices to producers for grains and flaxseed has had an adverse effect on the livestock industry. Many pastures are being plowed up for grains and this is causing some liquidation of cattle. The area planted in corn and in oilseeds for 1956 was increased over 1955, and plantings of wheat in progress early in the second quarter are reported to be substantially above last year.

Livestock trade indicates there is a pronounced increase in the number of cows and heifers going to market. If this movement continues, it could result in reduced beef production within the next year or two.

BELGIUM'S IMPORTS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE DURING 1955

The decline in butter production in Belgium in 1955 (See Foreign Crops and Markets, April 30, 1956) necessitated somewhat higher imports to meet domestic requirements. Imports rose from 17.3 million pounds in 1954 to 20.7 million pounds in 1955, -about 90 percent of which was supplied by the Netherlands.

Imports of cheese at 74.5 million pounds were slightly below those for 1954. A decline in receipts from the Netherlands and Western Germany was only partly offset by an increase in those from other countries.

NORWEGIAN MARKETING OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Milk cow numbers in Norway continued to decline in 1955 (See Foreign Crops and Markets, March 26, 1956). This reduction was more than offset by increased yields per cow. In 1939, the average production of milk per cow was 4,134 pounds. By 1955, this had risen to 5,655 pounds, an increase of 36 percent. In 1956, the average yield per cow is expected to reach 5,784 pounds - another 4 percent increase.

The present pattern of production in Norwegian dairy plants differs from the prewar pattern. Cheese production during 1955 amounted to 63.7 million pounds, an increase of 56 percent over the 40.8 million pounds produced in the prewar period. Butter production, on the other hand, was only 23.1 million pounds in 1955, compared with 34.4 million pounds in the earlier period - a drop of approximately 35 percent.

The dairy industry in Norway is designed to meet domestic requirements. However, in seasons of over-production marketing difficulties arise, at which time the surplus is exported at the best price obtainable in order to retain a level internal balance and thereby protect domestic prices, most of which are fixed.

During 1955, exports of all dairy products were higher than a year earlier with the exception of canned milk (condensed and evaporated). Butter exports rose from 3.3 million pounds in 1954 to 3.8 million pounds in 1955. The principal markets were Italy, Algiers, Western Germany and Switzerland. Norway realized an average price of 44.0 cents per pound for exported butter in 1955, which was slightly above the fixed domestic wholesale price of 43.8 cents per pound for top grade dairy butter.

To a small extent, Norway is a net exporter of cheese. In 1955, exports of the hard type cheese amounted to 3.7 million pounds and realized an average of 34.8 cents per pound. This compares to the fixed wholesale price of 31.4 cents per pound for top grade Gouda. Whey and Goat cheese exports amounted to 0.6 million pounds and returned 7.7 cents per pound less than the fixed price of 48.3 cents set at the wholesale level for goat cheese.

Domestic retail and wholesale prices of milk, butter and cheese are set by the Price Directorate and have shown no change since July 1, 1954. These prices include substantial subsidies paid by the Government, which in fiscal year 1955 amounted to \$37 million. This payment did not include subsidies for feed concentrate and fertilizer.

The Federation of Norwegian Milk Producers and its subsidiaries handles practically all milk marketing. Utilizing the Government's subsidy plan, it attempts to equalize the prices to producers, without regard to the end use of milk or location of the farm. The Government's subsidy plan includes (1) a base subsidy on all milk delivered from farms, which varies from month to month in order to encourage production during periods of low production; (2) a subsidy of 1.3 cents per quart for all milk sold for fluid consumption; (3) a special subsidy to marginal farms, varying from 0.4 cents to 2.3 cents per quart. In addition, the Government pays special transportation subsidies. Preliminary estimates made by the Agricultural Budget Committee indicate that the average price paid to producers for all milk delivered during 1955-56 was approximately \$3.40 per cwt. as compared to \$3.35 per cwt. during the previous year.

FRENCH FORECAST INCREASED MILK PRODUCTION IN 1956

The French Ministry of Agriculture forecasts total cows' milk production at 43.1 billion pounds during 1956. The same figure was forecast as 1955 production but the summer drought upset the estimate and 1955 production totaled 40.4 billion pounds. The Ministry bases its estimate on production during the first part of 1956, which is slightly higher than last year. Receipts at cheese plants in Eastern and Southern France were 5 to 6 percent higher during the first two months of 1956 than they were a year earlier, and in Western France receipts were up 3 to 4 percent.

Feed supplies, however, are low and although no serious shortage presently exists, milk production may run under the present expected level, if pastures develop late.

The Government is encouraging further expansion of France's dairy industry. Herd improvement practices, increased production per cow, increased grazing acreage and a declining horse population, all point to a long term increase in milk production. Repercussions, however, may develop in a marketing problem. The largest opportunity for increased sales appears to be in fluid milk consumption, but the French, with an estimated fluid milk consumption of 202 pounds per capita in 1954, only about 5 percent over the pre-war consumption rate, are not likely to use any large amount of additional milk in this manner in 1956.

MILK PRICE INCREASE IS AUSTRIAN QUESTION

With the elections out of the way, one of the first problems to be faced by the Austrian Government will be the question of the increase in milk price. The issue has been a long-standing subject of debate, not on the increase itself, but the amount and method used (see Foreign Crops and Markets, October 31, 1955). Once the increase is given, which observers feel is likely in the near future, Austrian farmers are expected to expand their herds and increase their milk production. In 1955 Austrian milk production totaled just over 5.4 billion pounds from about 1.2 million cows.

Austrian farmers have contended that a rise in milk price was long overdue. The last increase in the price of milk to the producer was in July of 1952 when the current price of approximately \$2.67 per cwt. (of which 33 cents is a government subsidy payable to creameries regardless of utilization of milk) was established. The demands for price adjustments have been insistent since the latter part of 1954 when the growing deficit in the Dairy Industry Fund indicated a rise in price to consumers would be necessary to cover increased operating costs of creameries. Stiff consumer resistance to any price increase forced a covering of this deficit from budgeted funds. This served to quiet, for a time, the demands for a producers' price increase, but in the fall of 1955 an increase in bus and streetcar fares gave agrarian interests a reason for renewing their requests for a price increase on milk.

Unofficial newspaper accounts indicated the farmers wanted a price of \$3.34 cents a hundredweight, but farmer spokesmen state the proposal was for an increase of about 53 cents, which would give a price of approximately \$3.20 a cwt., including subsidy. The farmers proposed that the proposed price be paid for milk irrespective of whether the milk was sold as fluid or used for butter and cheese. The creameries would receive the government subsidy only on the milk going into butter and cheese.

The leading political parties have agreed in principle on the right of farmers to the \$3.20 price per cwt. for their milk, but the question of where the funds would come from remains a point of question. If prices to consumers for fluid milk are not raised, the entire increase would come from subsidy funds. One solution offered by a major political party was a proposal to tax lumber exports and increase the tax on alcohol. The other major party offered a levy on oil license dues, as their solution to the problem. To date, neither party has accepted the proposal of the other and some alternative plan may be necessary to effect agreement and give the farmers the increased price all agree is warranted.

RECOMBINING INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO EXPAND IN EL SALVADOR

Present dairy output in El Salvador is estimated at 191,000 quarts daily, meeting only about one-seventh of the milk requirement of the country. The operation of the recombining plant in San Salvador, (see Foreign Crops and Markets, November 11, 1955), appears to have become a stimulus for dairymen to enter into large scale recombining operations to utilize flush season production and supplement the low domestic output of fresh milk.

The Government has encouraged the Salvador dairymen to the extent that three milk producer cooperatives have been formed. The producers of the Eastern area of San Salvador will supply the projected milk drying plant at San Miguel, which UNICEF is assisting with equipment. The producers in the town of Sansonate have formed a cooperative in the Western part of the country.

The largest, Cooperativa de Ganaderos de El Salvador, is composed of the producers in the central part of the country and is planning to enter into a large-scale recombining operation to supplement the fluid milk production of member dairymen. This cooperative, however, has not yet built its drying or recombining plant. Because of a constitutional ruling against monopolies the Government cannot exclusively favor this cooperative as it enters into the business of importing non-fat dry skim milk and fats for its recombining operation.

The recombining industry is not presently expected to receive all its requirements from local production and the infant industry will require imports of non-fat dry milk solids and fat, (see Foreign Agricultural Circular, FD 1-55, March, 1955).

SWEDEN'S TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Under a trade agreement concluded on January 21, 1956, East Germany has agreed to buy approximately 3.3 million pounds of Swedish butter to a value of \$1.4 million. A contract with Hungary for the period ending October 1, 1956 includes about 1.1 million pounds of Swedish butter. Western Germany has agreed to buy conditionally an unspecified quantity of Swedish butter during the year ending June 30, 1956. Some shipments were made to that country during 1955. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, May 21, 1956.)

AUSTRALIAN WOOL SALES

For the week ending April 27, 1956, sales at the wool auctions in Sydney and Melbourne amounted to 25,176 and 52,500 bales respectively.

The wool market was very active with strong competition from Japan and the continent, while the demand from Bradford continued to be somewhat stronger. Prices were from par to $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent higher. The better class clean merino wools were in the strongest position. All descriptions of wool, including comebacks and crossbred and even heavy burry wools, were from very firm to strong. Most descriptions were at the highest point of the current selling season with good quality 70's and 64's showing the greatest appreciation.

The shearers' strike has ended and the employees have returned to work. Employees indicated their willingness to return to work at the new award rate, and union officials have been asked to complete negotiations.

The Brisbane series of May wool sales is expected to be held on schedule.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES

Wool Prices: Average raw wool costs, clean basis, on Australian auction floors, by quality classification.

(Current prices with comparisons)

Type and Grade	Week Ended			Year ago
	4-20-56	4-27-56	4-29-55	
	- - - U.S. Dollar per Pound - - -			
<u>Combing Wools</u>				
70's Good.....	1.34	1.35	1.44	
Average.....	1.27	1.30	1.38	
64's Good.....	1.18	1.20	1.30	
Average.....	1.15	1.18	1.28	
60's Good.....	1.04	1.06	1.20	
Average.....	1.02	1.03	1.16	
58's Good.....	.95	.95	1.15	
Average.....	.92	.92	--	
56's Good.....	.87	.87	1.07	
Average.....	.85	.85	--	
50's Good.....	.79	.80	.94	
Average.....	.77	.78	--	
<u>Carding Wools</u>				
Merino.....	.80	.82	.87	
Comeback.....	.76	.76	.79	
Fine Crossbred.....	.71	.71	.78	
Medium Crossbred.....	.66	.68	.77	

Source: Wool Statistical Service of Australian Wool Bureau.

CHILE LIKELY TO INCREASE LARD AND TALLOW IMPORTS

Chilean import requirements for lard in 1956 may increase to around 9 million pounds, as compared with imports of 3.7 million pounds during the first eleven months of 1955. Nearly all of the 1955 lard imports came from Argentina.

It is probable that about 4.5 million pounds will be imported from the United States - 3.3 million through Public Law 480 and 1.2 million as a straight dollar sale. The balance may come from Argentina, as the trade agreement between the two countries allows for the import of up to 5.5 million pounds per year. However, rumors are to the effect that Chile will do well to receive more than 1.2 million pounds from Argentina in 1956. Thus, the possibility exists that some additional U. S. sales of lard to Chile may be made.

Imports of inedible tallow and greases in 1955 have been estimated by the trade at about 6.2 million pounds, nearly all from Argentina. According to U. S. trade data, however, United States exports to Chile of inedible tallow and greases totaled 7 million pounds in 1955. For 1956 an import need of up to 9 million pounds of inedible fats for soap making alone is reported by the industry. Chile will also take about 5.5 million pounds of United States' edible tallow under the Public Law 480 agreement signed by the 2 countries on March 13, 1956.

According to available information, the market for edible fats in Chile has remained rather constant in recent years whereas the market for inedible fats has been increasing. Soap makers state that their operations are presently reduced because of the lack of sufficient raw material. Import permits have recently been given for United States and Australian tallow. With liberalization of foreign exchange and the low United States price, increased business with the United States can be expected.

URUGUAY INCREASES WOOL EXPORTS

Wool exports during the 6-months of the current marketing season (beginning October 1, 1955) totaled 146,406 bales as against 56,355 bales for the previous comparable period. Holland and the United States were the principal buyers.

U. S. TALLOW AND GREASE EXPORTS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Exports of inedible tallow and greases from the United States during January-March 1956 reached 372.1 million pounds, or 22 percent above the quantity exported during the corresponding period a year ago. With the exception of Asia, exports to all areas show substantial increases.

In Europe, the biggest increase in exports during January-March 1956 was to Italy, while shipments to Western Germany, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia were up markedly. The Netherlands, the largest single outlet in 1955, continued to hold that position this year.

Exports to Japan were one-fifth less than shipments in the first 3-months of 1955, but that country is still by far the most important foreign market in Asia. Mexico, Cuba, and Canada are the principal markets in North America while the Union of South Africa and Egypt hold that position in Africa.

United States' exports of all tallow and greases reached a record 1,328 million pounds in the 12-months of 1955, as against 1,198 million pounds in 1954. All but 34 million pounds of last years' exports were classified as inedible products.

U. S. LARD EXPORTS UP NEARLY ONE-FIFTH IN JANUARY-MARCH

United States' exports of lard during January-March 1956 totaled 175.9 million pounds, or an increase of 19 percent from exports in the first 3-months of 1955. Larger shipments to Yugoslavia and the United Kingdom more than offset substantial reductions in exports to Western Germany and the Netherlands.

Exports of lard to Cuba, the major North American market, were only slightly less than the year before. Shipments to South America during the 3-month period were running nearly 3 times larger than during the corresponding months of 1955. Exports to Brazil, Bolivia and Peru were up sharply while no shipments were made to Ecuador.

Total lard shipments to all areas in the 1955 calendar year were 562 million pounds, or nearly 100 million pounds more than in 1954. While U.S. lard exports historically have been important, exports last year were well over 3 times average annual shipments during 1935-39.

UNITED STATES: Exports of Inedible Tallow and Greases by Country
of Destination, Average 1935-39, Annual 1954-55,
and January-March 1955-56

(1,000 pounds)

Continent & Country	Average :		1954	1955	January - March			Percent Change 2/
	1935-39	1954			1/	1955	1/	
<u>North America:</u>								
British West Indies	6	2,912	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	4,352	13,440	19,542	2,683	4,228	2,683	4,228	+ 58
Cuba	1,076	31,926	28,864	8,100	9,851	8,100	9,851	+ 22
Dominican Republic	264	3,326	3,079	925	670	925	670	- 28
El Salvador	3/	5,350	5,431	1,053	971	1,053	971	- 8
Guatemala	196	4,346	3,522	687	1,377	3,522	1,377	+ 100
Mexico	266	46,280	52,273	8,390	14,613	8,390	14,613	+ 74
Other	354	3,272	7,493	1,830	2,223	1,830	2,223	+ 21
Total	6,514	110,852	120,204	23,668	33,933	23,668	33,933	+ 43
<u>South America:</u>								
Chile	6	4,890	6,957	437	2,150	6,957	2,150	+ 392
Colombia	82	16,060	19,581	2,446	3,837	19,581	3,837	+ 57
Ecuador	2	8,358	7,628	1,349	2,324	7,628	2,324	+ 72
Peru	38	9,774	9,512	1,412	3,591	9,512	3,591	+ 154
Other	60	8,336	6,095	2,002	1,476	6,095	1,476	- 26
Total	188	47,418	49,773	7,646	13,378	49,773	13,378	+ 75
<u>Europe:</u>								
Austria	4/	3,500	5,318	1,811	2,165	5,318	2,165	+ 20
Belgium-Luxembourg	500	47,114	70,082	15,037	13,740	70,082	13,740	- 9
France	70	20,706	16,745	5,971	1,043	16,745	1,043	- 83
Germany (Western) 5/	98	108,522	107,780	23,876	28,281	107,780	28,281	+ 18
Ireland	2	5,846	8,657	1,864	1,687	8,657	1,687	- 10
Italy	308	158,890	190,832	43,948	72,151	158,890	72,151	+ 64
Netherlands	1,364	211,376	257,538	67,250	69,065	211,376	69,065	+ 3
Norway	98	4,518	3,276	672	781	3,276	781	+ 16
Switzerland	112	25,102	29,146	9,921	8,459	29,146	8,459	- 15
United Kingdom	514	9,540	6,346	2,753	10,128	9,540	10,128	+ 268
Yugoslavia	2	21,456	23,944	3,008	8,889	23,944	8,889	+ 196
Other	230	17,584	18,093	3,530	15,259	18,093	15,259	+ 332
Total	3,298	634,154	737,757	179,641	231,648	737,757	231,648	+ 29
<u>Asia:</u>								
Japan	102	192,614	203,094	46,800	37,532	203,094	37,532	- 20
Korea	0	13,268	16,154	5,089	4,354	16,154	4,354	- 14
Republic of Philippines	50	11,978	12,152	3,071	5,045	12,152	5,045	+ 64
Taiwan (Formosa)	0	21,854	23,609	5,826	5,874	23,609	5,874	+ 1
Other	58	14,164	19,386	2,508	2,544	19,386	2,544	+ 1
Total	210	253,878	274,395	63,294	55,349	274,395	55,349	- 13
<u>Africa:</u>								
Egypt	4	46,828	36,823	6,862	13,989	36,823	13,989	+ 104
Southern Rhodesia	0	2,114	0	0	0	2,114	0	-
Union of South Africa	14	58,400	59,074	20,328	19,890	58,400	19,890	- 2
Other	0	8,336	9,167	3,905	3,900	8,336	3,900	0
Total	18	115,678	105,064	31,095	37,779	105,064	37,779	+ 21
<u>Australia and Oceania:</u>								
GRAND TOTAL 6/	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10,324	1,162,106	1,294,129	305,437	372,087	1,294,129	372,087	+ 22

1/ Preliminary. 2/ January-March 1956 exports as percent increase (+) or decrease (-) from January-March 1955. 3/ Less than 500 pounds. 4/ Austria included with Germany. 5/ Prior to January 1952, reported as Germany. 6/ Totals for 1954, 1955, and 1956 include a small quantity, the final destination of which has not yet been designated.

UNITED STATES: Exports of Lard, Including Rendered Pork Fat, by Country of Destination, Average 1935-39, Annual 1954-55, and January-March 1955-56

(1,000 pounds)

Continent & Country	Average		1/	January		March		Percent Change 2/
	1935-39	1954		1955	1/	1955	1/	
<u>North America:</u>								
Canada	2,077	3,292		7,308		893	2,890	+: 224
Costa Rica	1,186	7,028		8,177		1,694	1,920	+: 13
Cuba	39,912	158,326		166,965		47,212	45,746	:- 3
Dominican Republic	460	40		0		0	0	
El Salvador	5	4,018		5,290		682	825	+: 21
Guatemala	395	8,934		12,513		2,211	4,178	+: 89
Haiti	645	5,874		5,780		1,483	882	:- 41
Mexico	5,499	30,650		19,948		9,078	2,443	:- 73
Netherlands Antilles	307	446		323		140	0	
Canal Zone	157	682		1,018		183	39	:- 79
Panama, Rep. of	1,033	9,432		3,086		253	912	+: 260
Other	284	1,326		2,602		402	348	:- 13
Total	51,960	230,078		233,010		64,231	60,183	:- 6
<u>South America:</u>								
Brazil	1	4		6		0	4,417	
Bolivia	15	4,994		6,829		868	3,896	+: 348
Colombia	3,741	2,358		2,852		850	953	+: 12
Ecuador	801	9,000		2,763		2,224	0	
Peru	32	4,836		9,200		180	3,381	+: 1,778
Venezuela	3,221	712		1,649		252	50	:- 80
Other	13	112		74		14	0	
Total	7,824	22,016		23,373		4,388	12,697	+: 190
<u>Europe:</u>								
Austria	3/	18,478		21,378		5,237	6,409	+: 22
Belgium and Luxembourg	2,460	70		233		102	33	:- 68
Czechoslovakia	1,654	0		0		0	0	
France	29	1,538		25		25	0	
Germany (Western) 4/	3/ 2,536	49,584		68,671		31,297	18,592	:- 41
Greece	1	0		0		0	22	
Italy	707	118		289		150	115	:- 23
Netherlands	330	14,294		19,204		12,573	2,675	:- 79
Poland	39	0		661		0	0	
Switzerland	218	2,216		293		195	45	:- 77
United Kingdom	95,733	97,106		167,496		27,674	47,004	+: 70
Yugoslavia	4	26,786		20,682		680	24,388	+: 3,486
Other	1,937	356		862		22	33	+: 50
Total	105,648	210,546		299,806		77,955	99,316	+: 27
Soviet Union	4	0		0		0	0	
Asia	36	2,340		3,727		985	890	:- 10
Africa	158	0		20		0	1	
Oceania	6	0		8		0	0	
GRAND TOTAL 5/	165,636	465,396		562,071		148,116	175,910	+: 19

1/ Preliminary. 2/ January-March 1956 exports as percent increase (+) or decrease (-) from January-March 1955. 3/ Austria included with Germany. 4/ Prior to January 1952, reported as Germany. 5/ Totals for 1954, 1955 and 1956 include a small quantity, the final destination of which has not yet been designated.

WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION 1955

Meat production in the principal livestock countries of the world, exclusive of the Far East, was approximately 86.5 billion pounds in 1955. This is a new record which exceeds production in prewar by 27 percent, 1946-50 by 29 percent, and 1954 by 3 percent.

The upward trend in meat production reflected the general increase in livestock numbers in most countries. The strong demand for meat with favorable prices during the past few years has encouraged livestock producers to expand breeding and feeding programs.

Meat output is now substantially above the 1946-50 average in Eastern and Western Europe, the U.S.S.R., Australia, New Zealand, and North America. However, production in South America is below the 1946-50 average.

Meat production in North America increased 6 percent in 1955 and was 20 percent larger than the postwar average. Production in the United States established a new record of nearly 27 billion pounds, and production in Canada of 2.3 billion was the largest in about 10 years. Output in Cuba and Mexico continued to increase in 1955.

Production in Western Europe increased only slightly in 1955. Fairly large increases occurred in Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, West Germany, Greece, and Yugoslavia. Moderate gains in output occurred in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Portugal and Switzerland. Meat production declined from the 1954 level in Finland, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Meat production in the U.S.S.R. has increased materially since the end of World War II. According to a published report of the First Secretary of the Communist Party, meat production in 1955 was 30 percent larger than in 1950 and 8 percent more than in 1953. According to that source, production in the country has increased each year since 1951.

Apparently meat production in South America increased slightly in 1955. Production in Argentina increased 6 percent and some increase occurred in Brazil. In 1955 production in Uruguay was sharply lower than a year earlier.

Meat production in the Union of South Africa declined moderately in 1955 reflecting a decline in cattle marketings before price ceilings on beef and cattle were removed. Production in Australia and New Zealand increased 4 and 7 percent, respectively. Output of meat in Australia is now 30 percent above the 1946-50 average and is up 12 percent in New Zealand.

Output in the Philippine Republic has increased sharply since the end of World War II, and in 1955 was almost equal to the prewar average. Production in Japan has also increased sharply since the end of the war. Output in 1955 of 347 million pounds was 16 percent larger than a year earlier, mainly because of an increase in cattle slaughter.

MEAT 1/ Preliminary estimates of production of beef and veal, pork, mutton, lamb and goat
meat, and total meat in specified countries in 1955, with comparison

Country	Beef and Veal			Pork (excluding lard)			Mutton, Lamb and Goat			Total 2/			1955 as percent of		
	Average: 1946-50-1954			1955 3/			Average: 1946-50-1954			1955 3/			1946-50: 1954		
	\$Million	\$Million	\$Million	\$Million	\$Million	\$Million	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	\$Million	\$Million	\$Million
North America:															
Canada	1,043	1,255	1,279	956	917	1,019	54	31	45	34	2,053	2,203	2,332	114	106
Mexico	723	770	747	262	334	368	50	50	50	45	1,035	1,156	1,162	112	101
United States	10,978	14,617	15,212	10,511	9,952	11,016	743	734	758	758	22,262	25,333	26,986	121	107
Quba	375	370	380	37	82	95	2	2	2	2	114	454	467	113	103
Europe:															
Austria	158	267	263	232	322	418	10	4	4	4	407	674	696	171	103
Belgium	238	387	405	267	387	401	6	5	5	5	559	840	864	155	103
Denmark 4/	327	389	466	520	1,110	1,127	7	2	2	2	1,570	1,621	1,621	183	103
Finland	91	116	128	109	134	116	11	17	14	14	220	279	266	121	95
France 4/	1,937	2,998	3,108	1,350	1,830	1,875	213	254	254	254	3,613	5,259	5,435	150	103
Germany, Western	5/ 1,060	1,288	1,684	5/ 1,530	2,865	3,285	5/ 50	59	53	53	5/ 2,705	4,722	5,078	198	108
Greece	30	32	36	35	45	46	96	127	132	132	161	201	214	133	105
Ireland	158	208	208	129	218	218	40	48	48	48	327	474	474	145	-
Italy	522	905	922	635	690	650	106	106	106	106	1,296	1,766	1,750	135	99
Netherlands	227	410	452	294	661	733	13	16	16	16	555	1,222	220	110	110
Norway	87	116	134	70	95	107	30	37	37	37	123	208	278	144	112
Portugal	62	91	93	215	220	225	47	53	53	53	324	364	372	115	102
Sweden 4/	261	276	323	341	417	409	7	4	4	4	637	722	774	122	107
Switzerland	173	213	206	1148	216	224	4	7	8	8	336	447	447	133	101
United Kingdom	1,230	1,612	1,540	500	1,570	1,580	305	457	387	387	2,035	3,699	3,507	172	95
Yugoslavia	217	239	247	421	421	485	127	148	159	159	784	855	891	111	104
Asia:															
Turkey	208	308	-	-	-	-	385	385	385	385	515	693	735	-	-
Japan	110	135	179	49	130	144	144	144	144	144	181	298	347	192	116
Philippines, Rep. of	33	45	48	5/	87	154	5/	5/	5/	5/	125	196	207	166	106
South America:															
Argentina	4,284	3,957	4,189	391	298	315	540	259	287	287	5,215	4,514	4,791	92	106
Brazil 6/	2,114	2,376	512	512	571	75	69	86	94	94	2,695	3,033	426	104	101
Chile	280	-	52	-	-	-	35	-	-	-	745	230	210	91	-
Colombia	635	-	52	36	33	37	164	132	139	139	743	827	577	78	70
Paraguay	230	210	662	401	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	543	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Africa:															
Union of South Africa	650	710	650	82	95	95	185	220	225	225	917	1,025	970	106	95
Oceania:															
Australia	1,226	1,621	1,710	210	204	217	701	857	859	859	2,137	2,682	2,786	130	104
New Zealand 7/	409	445	498	84	85	84	708	734	766	766	1,201	1,294	1,348	112	107

1/ Carcass meat basis - excludes offal and lard. 2/ Includes horsemeat in addition to types shown in other columns, if it is produced in quantity. 3/ Preliminary.

4/ Includes carcass weight equivalent of live animals exported. 5/ Average for less than five years. 6/ Excludes farm production. 7/ Years ending September 30.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Foreign Agricultural Service May, 1956.

8/ Carcass meat basis - excludes offal and lard. 9/ Includes horsemeat in addition to types shown in other columns, if it is produced in quantity. 10/ Preliminary.

11/ Includes carcass weight equivalent of live animals exported. 12/ Excludes farm production. 13/ Years ending September 30.

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245/ Carcass meat basis - excludes offal and lard. 24

Meat 1/: Summary of World Production, 1955, with Comparisons

Continent or Area	Averages		1954	Preliminary	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)	
	1934-38	1946-50			1955	1946-50
	1934-38	1946-50	1954	1955	1955	1954
North America 2/	18,606	25,764	29,146	30,947	+ 20	+ 6
Europe 3/	27,215	20,069	29,729	29,959	+ 49	+ 1
U. S. S. R.	8,775	4/	4/	4/	-	-
Middle East 5/	1,115	1,327	1,648	4/	-	-
Republic of Philippines	209	125	196	207	+ 66	+ 6
South America 6/	8,358	10,054	9,777	9,807	- 2	-
Union of South Africa	671	917	1,025	970	+ 6	- 5
Oceania 7/	3,211	3,338	3,946	4,134	+ 24	+ 5
Total 8/	68,160	67,094	84,242	86,522	+ 29	+ 3

1/ Carcass meat - excludes offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Canada, Mexico, United States and Cuba. 3/ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Western Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland and Rumania. 4/ Estimates included in the total. 5/ Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. 6/ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay. 7/ Australia and New Zealand. 8/ Total for 42 countries as listed above. During 1938, 41 of these countries produced an estimated 66.3 billion pounds of meat out of an estimated total of 70 billion pounds for 67 countries, excluding China. It is estimated that 42 countries produce 93 percent of the world meat output, exclusive of China.

CUBAN PORK IMPORTS RISE

Cured pork imports by Cuba during January-March 1956 totaled 10.5 million pounds, about 30 percent greater than a year earlier. The large imports reflected the low level of prices in the United States, the source of practically all of the product brought in. However, imports of beef during the first quarter totaled only 92,000 pounds or considerably smaller than a year earlier.

Production of jerked beef for export may be resumed by Cuban producers. On March 21, 1956, the ceiling price on live cattle of the types used for production of jerked beef was increased from 8 to 11 cents per pound and increases were granted in the prices of beef carcasses at wholesale and jerked beef at retail.

Since 1950 the production of jerked beef has declined to a low level mainly as a result of the low fixed prices. Trade sources estimate that the production of jerked beef in 1955 was around 10 million pounds. All was consumed domestically.

Administrative action has been taken to permit exports of jerked beef. A resolution issued by the Ministry of Commerce, effective April 12, permits the exportation of sheep and mutton, jerked beef, and canned beef, pork and mutton. This is an amendment to a resolution in effect since June 29, 1943, which prohibited exports of cattle, hogs and sheep and their products.

U.S. 1955-56 WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS TO EXCEED 1954-55 LEVEL BY SUBSTANTIAL MARGIN

United States exports of wheat and flour during the current 1955-56 (July-June) marketing season are now expected to exceed 300 million bushels, compared with the 274 million bushels exported in 1954-55, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Official figures show that exports during the first nine months (July-March) of the season amounted to 211 million bushels grain equivalent compared with 209 million bushels during the same period a year ago. Unofficial records show that exports during April and the first three weeks of May have already exceeded 60 million bushels.

Exports have been picking up steadily since last December, and reached 40.4 million bushels in March, the largest quantity moved into export channels in any single month since May 1952. Of the total exported during the first 9 months (July-March) of the season, wheat accounted for 174.9 million bushels compared with 175.8 million a year ago, and flour for 36.0 million bushels (grain equivalent) compared with 32.7 million bushels.

With respect to wheat, exports to Europe show a reduction of more than 30 million bushels compared with the first nine months of 1954-55, largely because of reduced shipments to the United Kingdom, Yugoslavia and West Germany. This reduction, however, was more than offset by increased exports to the Western Hemisphere, Africa and Asia. The large increase in exports to Egypt, Japan and Pakistan is especially noteworthy.

The most notable feature of the country's flour export trade during the 9-month period under review has been the substantial increase in exports to Indo-China (Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia). Substantially increased flour exports are also recorded to Venezuela, Italy and the United Kingdom.

United States Exports of Wheat and Flour During Stated Periods

Destination	July-March 1954-55			July-March 1955-56		
	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total
	(Thousands of bushels, grain equivalent)					
<u>Western Hemisphere</u>						
Canada	2	56	58	1,296	202	1,498
Mexico	13	7	20	2,423	10	2,433
Central America	392	2,673	3,065	613	2,919	3,532
Cuba	882	2,686	3,568	1,393	2,627	4,020
British West Indies	-	1,853	1,853	-	1,802	1,802
Other Caribbean	8	1,736	1,744	15	1,555	1,570
Colombia	118	222	340	1,752	75	1,827
Venezuela	162	2,540	2,702	65	3,466	3,531
Peru	1,068	103	1,171	3,304	161	3,465
Bolivia	1,820	849	2,669	1,044	829	1,873
Chile	-	56	56	1,388	4	1,392
Brazil	8,764	5	8,769	12,441	218	12,659
Others	211	1,034	1,245	502	1,026	1,528
Total	13,440	13,820	27,260	26,236	14,894	41,130
<u>Europe</u>						
Norway	4,655	1,102	5,757	1,302	1,097	2,399
United Kingdom	22,085	364	22,449	11,120	1,074	12,194
Netherlands	7,935	3,198	11,133	12,762	2,535	15,297
Belgium-Luxembourg	5,695	11	5,706	3,481	13	3,494
West Germany	17,708	62	17,770	10,366	1	10,367
Spain	2,254	-	2,254	909	-	909
Portugal	1,308	166	1,474	1,939	263	2,202
Italy	761	33	794	2,925	950	3,875
Yugoslavia	35,057	9	35,066	24,800	8	24,808
Greece	10,899	2	10,901	9,707	6	9,712
Others	2,591	81	2,672	1,141	151	1,298
Total	110,948	5,028	115,976	80,458	6,098	86,556
<u>Asia</u>						
Turkey	6,250	-	6,250	400	-	400
Lebanon	11	1,820	1,831	-	1,885	1,885
Israel	6,150	6	6,156	5,164	8	5,172
Saudi Arabia	225	1,456	1,681	291	1,508	1,799
India	4,243	44	4,287	2,668	36	2,704
Pakistan	288	2	290	4,537	-	4,537
Indo-China	-	-	-	-	1,256	1,256
Philippines	1	3,728	3,729	-	3,578	3,578
Korea	1,491	548	2,039	2,595	-	2,595
Formosa	5,046	-	5,046	5,021	5	5,026
Japan	24,692	641	25,333	32,166	897	33,063
Others	1,027	1,769	2,796	210	1,415	1,625
Total	49,424	10,014	59,438	53,052	10,583	63,640
<u>Africa</u>						
Egypt	-	744	744	12,123	266	12,389
British West Africa	-	1,772	1,772	-	2,045	2,045
Union of South Africa	1,068	-	1,068	702	-	702
Others	959	1,216	2,175	2,351	1,488	3,839
Total	2,027	3,732	5,759	15,176	2,799	18,975
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Oceania	-	7	7	-	9	9
Unspecified	-	60	60	4	650	654
Total	-	67	67	4	659	663
World total	175,839	32,661	208,500	174,926	36,038	210,964

1/ Wholly of U.S. wheat.

U. S. EXPORTS OF COTTON LINTERS
MARCH 1956

United States exports of cotton linters, mostly chemical grades 5-7, amounted to 43,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in March 1956, dropping 34 percent from exports of 65,000 bales in February, but about one-third higher than exports of 32,000 bales in March 1955.

Linters exports for the 8-month period, August-March 1955-56, amounted to 321,000 bales or about 60 percent higher than exports of 199,000 bales in August-March 1954-55. Principal destinations of United States linters in the current period, with comparable figures for 1954-55 in parentheses were: Western Germany 102,000 bales (72,000); United Kingdom 70,000 (49,000); France 57,000 (29,000); Japan 39,000 (19,000); Netherlands 26,000 (6,000); and Canada 18,000 (15,000).

U. S. IMPORTS OF COTTON LINTERS
MARCH 1956

United States imports of cotton linters, mostly felting grades 1-4, amounted to 18,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in March 1956, as compared with 17,000 bales imported in February, and 14,000 bales imported in March 1955.

Linters imports during the 8-month period, August-March 1955-56, amounted to 146,000 bales, an increase of 34 percent over imports of 109,000 bales in August-March 1954-55. Principal sources of United States linters imports in the current period with comparable figures for 1954-55 in parentheses were: Mexico 99,000 bales (60,000); U. S. S. R. 31,000 (18,000); El Salvador 3,000 (2,000); Brazil 5,000 (11,000); Peru 2,000 (2,000); and Belgium 2,000 (400).

BRAZIL CHANGES
EXPORT EXCHANGE RATES

On May 19, Brazil modified currency exchange rates applicable to certain export commodities, including a considerable number of agricultural and forest products accounting for 15-20 percent of Brazil's exports.

Brazilian authorities state that the changes were necessitated by rising costs which tended to price Brazilian commodities out of the market. The changes represent a devaluation ranging from 10 to 34 percent for the products affected by the new measures.

In addition to the revision of its official exchange regulations, the Bank of Brazil, through its Foreign Trade Department ("CACEX"), has recently been carrying on purchase-and-resale operations aimed at improving the competitive pricewise position of Brazilian products through alteration of the effective exchange rate so as to secure minimum cruzeiro returns to Brazilian exporters. These operations have resulted in varying exchange rates for certain products which in effect replace the official rates.

The export rates currently in effect for selected agricultural and forest commodities are shown below.

Official Export Category	Commodity	Effective Export Rates (Cruzeiros per US\$)		
		Dollars	Other Currencies	Reported recent rates under "CACEX System"
		and ACL	Currencies	
I	Coffee.....	37.06	35.55	--
II	Raw cotton.....	43.06	41.31	48-56 <u>b/</u>
	Cocoa beans, paste, and cakes; hides and skins...	43.06	41.31	
III	Bananas, papaya, soya beans, tobacco.....	55.00	52.77	<u>c/</u>
	Pine lumber.....	55.00	52.77	50-60
	Cotton linters, peanuts,:			
	Brazil nuts, raw wool, :			
	castor seeds and oil, :			
	Cocoa butter, oiticica,:			
	piassava.....	55.00	52.77	--
IV	Commodities not included in I-III <u>d/</u>	67.00	64.28	<u>e/</u>

a/ -- US and Canadian dollars; Belgium and Luxembourg francs, German marks, Italian lire, Netherlands guilders, and sterling

b/ -- Brazilian Type 5 cotton

c/ -- Known to have been exported under the CACEX system; actual rate data not available

d/ -- Note: minor Category III commodities have been omitted from this table

e/ -- Category IV commodities known to have been exported under the CACEX system include mandioca and mandioca flour; rate data not available.

APRIL U. S. EXPORTS OF SOYBEAN OIL MAINTAIN HIGH LEVEL,
COTTONSEED OIL ABOVE LAST YEAR, OILCAKES NEARING RECORD

Soybean oil continued to move out of the United States at a high rate in April, according to preliminary Census Bureau data, adjusted by the Foreign Agricultural Service. The estimated 32.6 million pounds of soybean oil exported in April were more than 11 times the April 1955 figure and brought the January-April total up to 167.2 million pounds, more than 14 times the exports during the first 4 months of 1955, and exactly one-third the total exports during the record year 1951.

Cottonseed oil exports in April are estimated at 44.6 million pounds, 233 percent from last year. The four-months total is 18 percent higher than January-April 1955.

Combined exports of cottonseed, linseed and soybean cake and meal may set an alltime record this year, judging from the first 4 months' performance. The January-April total is nearly 60 percent of the record exports for the whole of 1948, when 327,000 tons were shipped abroad. Most phenomenal is the rise in soybean cake and meal exports which parallels, to some extent, the increase in exports of soybean oil. Based on April inspection reports, it appears that exports of soybeans for the first 4 months were running close to the 15-million-bushel level of January-April 1955.

COTTONSEED OIL, SOYBEAN OIL AND OILCAKES AND MEALS: Preliminary estimates of United States exports for April and January-April 1956, compared with April and January-April 1955

Commodity	1956		1955	
	April	Jan-April	April	Jan-April
	(Estimated)		(Actual)	
: Million pounds :				
Cottonseed oil, refined.....	10.3	114.4	1.4	147.3
Cottonseed oil, refined and further processed.....	22.9	60.1	11.0	23.3
Cottonseed oil, crude.....	11.4	79.5	1.0	45.3
Total cottonseed oil.....	44.6	254.0	13.4	215.9
Soybean oil, refined.....	4.1	31.9	1.7	7.0
Soybean oil, refined and further processed.....	28.2	119.4	0.6	3.1
Soybean oil, crude.....	0.3	15.9	0.6	1.7
Total soybean oil.....	32.6	167.2	2.9	11.8
: Thousand short tons :				
Cottonseed cake and meal.....	2.9	26.8	0.3	31.7
Linseed cake and meal.....	4.2	28.7	1.2	6.3
Soybean cake and meal.....	30.6	135.8	6.9	52.3
Total cake and meal 1/	37.7	191.3	8.4	90.3

1/ Excluding peanut cake and meal, exports of which have been negligible since 1952.

NOTE: The estimates for April 1956 are based on preliminary data prepared by the Census Bureau for special Foreign Trade Reports Nos. FT 5502 and 5503. These data represent totals of weekly processing of export declarations (covering shipments valued at \$5,000 and over for oils and \$1,000 and over for cake and meal) for inclusion in the statistical month concerned and are subject to revision before they are included in the Census Bureau's published figures. The Foreign Agricultural Service has made certain adjustments in the original data to make allowance for export shipments not included in Reports Nos. FT 5502 and 5503. The figures for January-April 1956 were obtained by adding published export data for January-March to the preliminary FAS estimates for April. Hence, the margin of error for the cumulative totals is negligible.

U. S. IMPORTS OF COTTON,
MARCH 1956

United States imports of cotton (for consumption) in March 1956 amounted to only 9,000 bales (500 pounds gross) as compared with imports of 18,000 bales in February, and 28,000 bales in March 1955.

Imports for the 8-month period, August-March 1955-56 amounted to 119,000 bales, an increase of 17 percent over imports of 102,000 bales in the same months of 1954-55. Practically all of the United States cotton imports are from 4 countries, Egypt, Mexico, Pakistan and Peru.

Most of the increase in cotton imports in the current period has been in Asiatic and Egyptian types, as shown in the following table. Imports by country of origin are shown in the table on the following page.

UNITED STATES: Imports of cotton by type and staple length,
August-March 1954-55 and 55-56

(Thousand bales of 500 pounds gross)

Type and staple length	August-March	
	1954-55	1955-56
Asiatic type:	:	:
Under 3/4 inch, harsh or rough..	15	22
Upland type:	:	:
Under 1-1/8 inches.....	22	22
Egyptian type:	:	:
1-1/8 up to 1-11/16 inches.....	46	60
1-11/16 inches and over.....	19	15
Total.....	102	119

UNITED STATES: Imports of cotton by countries of origin;
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1953 and 1954;
and August-March 1954-55 and 1955-56

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1			August-March		
	Average		1953	1954	1954-55	1955-56
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>
Brazil.....	3	1	2	1	1	1/
China.....	2/ 31	3/ 1/	0	0	0	0
Egypt.....	63	103	77	4/ 73	41	52
India.....	67	103	18	17	9	4
Mexico.....	23	19	17	20	20	21
Pakistan.....	5/ 6/	12	14	11	6	19
Peru.....	1	23	8	22	20	20
Sudan.....	7/ 2/	4	7	3	3	1
U.S.S.R.	3/ 5	6/ 1	1	1	1	1
Others.....	0	0	1	2	1	1
Total 8/.....	9/ 185	9/ 260	145	150	102	119

1/ Less than 500 bales. 2/ 4-year average. 3/ 2-year average. 4/ Includes 147 bales transshipped via Italy. 5/ Included with India prior to partition in 1947. 6/ 3-year average. 7/ Included with Egypt prior to 1942. 8/ Includes small quantities which are reexported each year. 9/ Total does not add due to partial averages.

COTTON EXPORTS FROM TURKEY CONTINUE AT LAST YEAR'S LEVEL

Cotton exports from Turkey during the first 6 months (August-January) of the 1955-56 marketing year amounted to only 69,000 bales (500 pounds gross), continuing the low level of 73,000 bales exported in August-January 1954-55. Exports in earlier years have been much higher during the corresponding periods, amounting to 203,000 bales in August-January 1953-54, and 205,000 in August-January 1952-53. A short crop, high internal prices for cotton, and increasing domestic demand are contributing factors to the declining exports.

Cotton exports from Turkey in the current period have been principally to Italy, France, and Western Germany, with smaller quantities to other European countries, both East and West. Quantities exported in August-January 1955-56 with comparable figures for 1954-55 in parentheses were: Italy 32,000 bales (6,000); France 13,000 (2,000); Western Germany 7,000 (21,000); Yugoslavia 3,000 (8,000); Israel 3,000 (2,000); Netherlands 3,000 (300); Czechoslovakia 2,000 (7,000); Hungary 2,000 (4,000); Poland 2,000 (2,000); and Rumania 2,000 (none).

Cotton production in Turkey during August-July 1955-56 is currently estimated at 600,000 bales, down 8 percent from 1954-55 production of 650,000 bales, and 6 percent less than 1953-54 production of 638,000 bales. Cotton acreage for 1955-56 amounted to 1,520,000 acres, as compared with 1,440,000 in 1954-55 and 1,495,000 in 1955-54. Preliminary reports on planting for the 1956-57 crop indicate about the same area as for the current year.

Cotton consumption in Turkey during the first 6 months of the current year is tentatively estimated at 200,000 bales, of which about 20,000 bales are for nonmill use. Consumption in 1954-55 was estimated at 375,000 bales.

Stocks on August 1, 1955, were estimated at 167,000 bales, as compared with 125,000 bales held a year earlier. There is no available estimate for mid-season stocks. However, when exports and consumption figures are deducted from the estimated supply it appears that mid-season stocks were less than 500,000 bales. After deduction of mill requirements for the remainder of the season, quantities already obligated for export, and normal end-season stocks, no significant quantities remained available for export sale.

FRANCE'S IMPORTS OF EDIBLE OILS EXPECTED TO INCREASE SHARPLY; PEANUT IMPORTS TO BE DOWN

Metropolitan France expects to require about 250,000 short tons of peanut oil and 88,000 tons of other edible fluid oils in 1956. In 1955, peanut oil imports amounted to 91,248 tons and other edible fluid oils about 80,000 tons. It is believed that about 230,000 tons of peanut oil will be obtained from French Union sources and that the equivalent of 16,500 tons will be imported from foreign countries. Of the 88,000 tons of edible fluid oils, 50,000 tons are expected to be obtained from the French Union and 38,000 tons either in oil or oil-bearing material from foreign countries.

France probably will import from foreign countries--Sudan, Portuguese Guinea, Nigeria, Gambia, British East Africa and South Africa--11,000 tons of peanuts in the shell and 22,000 tons of shelled peanuts. This is considerably less than the 400,000 tons of peanuts imported in 1955.

Imports of rapeseed--largely from Sweden but possibly some from Poland--are expected to total 22,000 tons, about equal to 1955 imports.

Soybean imports are expected to total 110,000 tons compared with 88,000 tons in 1955. These probably will be imported from the United States and China. As of April 20, about 33,000 tons had been contracted, 22,000 from the United States and 11,000 from China. While the 1956 crop of soybeans in Manchuria is expected to be as large as last year's, importers are uncertain about the quantity which will be available for export. If additional quantities are available at satisfactory prices, France probably will take more than the 11,000 tons already purchased. And if the United States price and quality are satisfactory, it is likely that France will take considerable quantities from the United States. As of mid-May it was reported that the maximum price which France can pay for soybeans is the equivalent of 41.5 francs per kilo. This is about \$117-\$118 per metric ton (\$3.18-\$3.21 per bushel) c.i.f. French port. The need for soybeans is for the nearby position, May-June shipment. As the price for this position is very high, buyers were forced to buy beans for October-November shipment in addition to those for May-June in order to make an average price which would be within the present maximum limit.

Imports of flaxseed this year probably will be less than in 1955, if domestic production increases as now forecast.

The total area and production of oilseeds in 1956 is expected to be below the level of 1955. Production in 1955 was almost one-fifth larger than in 1954. The increase was the result of the announcement in November 1954 of a Government policy to encourage domestic production, particularly of rapeseed. This was part of an overall program of assistance to vegetable oil producers throughout the French Union designed to make France less dependent on outside sources of vegetable oil. Producers are guaranteed a minimum price which is announced each year.

This program apparently has appealed to farmers for they responded in 1955 by increasing production and increasing the fall plantings of rapeseed to be harvested in 1956. Rapeseed plantings last fall were reported at 231,286 acres, one-fourth larger than a year earlier. However, the severe cold weather during February killed about one-half of the fall plantings and damaged the other half. Some replacement of fall plantings of rapeseed with spring planting is expected, but officials estimate that the total area will be about 144,550 acres, one-fifth less than in 1955. Production has been provisionally estimated at around 83,000 tons compared with almost 120,000 tons in 1955.

Flaxseed production in 1956 is forecast at close to 2 million bushels in contrast to 1 million bushels in 1955, based on the belief that some of the winter wheat which was killed will be replaced by flax.

During 1955 a total of 894,480 tons of oil-bearing material, excluding olives, was crushed in France producing 373,600 tons of oil. Crushings exceeded those of 1954 by 10 percent while oil production exceeded that of 1954 by 6 percent. The crushing industry in 1955, operated at 45 percent of its normal annual capacity of 1.98 million tons. Oilcake production at 470,660 tons was 14 percent higher than in 1954. Margarine production increased to 94,000 tons from 86,000 tons in 1954.

Table 1 - FRANCE: Area and production of oilseed crops,
except flaxseed, 1954 and 1955

Crop	Area				Production			
	1954		1955		1954		1955	
	Acres	1/	Acres	2/	Short tons	1/	Short tons	2/
Rapeseed.....	162,590		181,620		96,795		119,975	
Poppy seed.....	3,710		1,930		1,180		670	
Sunflower.....	5,680		3,805		3,295		2,115	
Others.....	43,490		41,510		17,515		19,390	
Total.....	215,470		228,865		118,785		142,150	

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary.

Source: "Revue du Ministere de l' Agriculture" December 1955.

Imports into France of oil-bearing materials during 1955 amounted to 909,654 tons of which one-half was from French overseas territories.

The United States supplied 88 percent of the soybean imports and China 12 percent. Canada supplied 62 percent of the flaxseed and the United States 32 percent. Total imports of oil-bearing materials were 11 percent higher than in 1954. Oilseed exports amounted to only 4,079 tons.

Imports of vegetable oils, largely peanut, olive and linseed oils, totaled 199,524 tons or about the same tonnage as in 1954. Vegetable oil exports were 27,171 tons.

Table 2 - FRANCE: Imports of oilbearing materials and
vegetable oil, 1954 and 1955
(Short tons)

Oilbearing material	1954	1955	Vegetable oil	1954	1955
Peanuts.....	353,684	400,488	Peanuts.....	90,691	91,248
Copra.....	99,391	96,453	Olive.....	40,216	24,010
Palm kernels.....	164,071	150,668	Palm.....	27,308	31,261
Soybeans.....	46,849	88,442	Palm kernel....		
Flaxseed.....	117,019	113,280	and coconut...	5,043	8,356
Castorbeans.....	19,709	25,121	Cottonseed....	8	999
Rapeseed.....	3,676	22,799	Linseed.....	16,639	20,775
Hempseed.....	2,055	821	Tung.....	2,950	3,470
Sesame seed.....	1,280	1,626	Castor.....	1,703	1,424
Karite seed.....	2,309	1,795	Karite.....	670	1,092
Others.....	6,084	8,161	Other.....	13,790	16,889
Total.....	816,127	909,654	Total.....	199,018	199,524

Source: Customs Bureau, Ministry of Finance.

Prices of some oilseeds and oils are considerably above the 1955 level. United States soybeans which sold for \$90-\$100 per metric ton (\$2.45-\$2.72 per bushel) c.a.f. French ports in 1955 were quoted at \$125-\$130 (\$3.40-\$3.54) in mid-April. A cargo of Chinese soybeans imported at the end of March 1956 sold for £ 40-10-0 (U.S. \$112.40) per metric ton (\$3.06 per bushel) c.a.f. Marseille, which the trade considered a favorable price. As of mid-April the trade reported peanut oil from India selling at £ 150 per metric ton (19.1 cents per pound) compared with £ 90 (11.4 cents) last year c.a.f. Algeria.

COTTON PRODUCTION IN IRAN CONTINUES AT LAST YEAR'S LEVEL

Latest estimates of the 1955-56 cotton production in Iran are for a crop of 275,000 bales, the same as for the previous year, but 15 percent higher than in 1953-54. Earlier estimates of this year's crop had been for a much higher figure. Acreage for the 1955-56 crop was estimated at 650,000 acres or 5 percent higher than in 1954-55. Shortage of irrigation water and lack of rainfall in the growing season reduced this year's yields.

Cotton exports by Iran during the year ending August 21, 1955, were estimated at 207,000 bales or 26 percent higher than exports of 164,000 bales in 1953-54. Iran's cotton exports move principally to France, Western Germany, Japan, Italy, the U.S.S.R., and the United Kingdom. Considerable quantities of cotton are exported in exchange for manufactured or industrial products, often under barter arrangements.

Cotton consumption in Iran amounted to approximately 73,000 bales in 1954-55 or slightly higher than the 71,000 bales consumed in 1953-54. Of this total, nonmill or household consumption accounts for about 14,000 bales annually.

Iran's cotton production includes three principal varieties, Filestani, Cokers, and Lightning, all of which have been developed since 1925 from American-type seed originally imported from the United States.

Cotton stocks on August 1, 1955, were estimated at 15,000 bales as compared with 20,000 bales held a year earlier.

CEYLON'S COCONUT PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS EXPECTED TO DECLINE

Production and exports of coconuts and coconut products in Ceylon in 1956 are expected to be adversely affected by the prolonged recent drought. The drought has not seriously affected the nuts which are presently maturing, but it has damaged the flowers from which the nuts develop. As the nuts mature 9 months after the flowers appear, the results of the dry weather will not be felt until the end of the year. How extensively production will be affected cannot be estimated presently, although trade sources believe that the decline will be considerable.

Production of coconuts and coconut products reached a record high in 1955. Exports of copra and coconut oil also were at an all-time high of 222,680 tons copra basis. This was 43 percent greater than in 1954 and 6 percent greater than the previous high of 1952.

Exports of copra alone in 1955 totaled 68,353 long tons, almost 50 percent greater than exports in 1954. Nearly 93 percent of the total went to India.

Coconut oil exports, at 97,226 tons, were 40 percent above exports in 1954. Sales to Europe, particularly Western Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, and exports to Canada, Pakistan and Egypt increased sharply. Conversely, exports to China dropped from 10,000 tons in 1954 to 2,200 last year.

Exports of desiccated coconut increased from 55,204 tons in 1954 to 57,913 tons in 1955. Over one-third of the total went to the United Kingdom.

CEYLON: Copra and coconut oil exports, average
1935-39, annual 1954 and 1955
(Long tons)

Country of destination	Copra			Coconut oil		
	Average 1935-39	1954 1/	1955 1/	Average 1935-39	1954 1/	1955 1/
	:	:	:	:	:	:
Canada.....	-	-	-	8,523:	5,191:	15,200
West Indies.....	-	-	-	881:	-	-
Denmark.....	1,605:	-	-	35:	-	-
France.....	354:	-	-	347:	100:	200
Western Germany.....	2/ 1,482:	-	-	2/ 1,200:	647:	4,217
Greece.....	1,526:	-	-	120:	-	-
Italy.....	6,541:	-	-	2/ 1,724:	17,001:	23,690
Netherlands.....	-	-	-	-	6,186:	12,860
Sweden.....	-	-	-	3,573:	2,019:	95
Switzerland.....	-	-	-	84:	1,038:	1,813
United Kingdom.....	420:	-	-	14,160:	6,110:	10,572
Other Europe.....	4,573:	-	-	5,913:	626:	395
China.....	-	-	-	3/	10,000:	2,200
Cyprus.....	-	-	-	146:	155:	134
India.....	42,553:	39,189:	63,440:	10,769:	11,968:	11,683
Iraq.....	20:	115:	774:	315:	403:	173
Pakistan.....	-	6,568:	3,915:	-	1,322:	5,600
Israel.....	-	-	-	15:	50:	-
Syria.....	60:	-	-	164:	38:	34
Other Asia.....	360:	149:	218:	2,406:	3,499:	3,664
Egypt.....	425:	-	-	2,433:	790:	3,331
Union of South Africa..	-	-	-	2,597:	162:	295
Other countries.....	8:	4:	4:	3,608:	1,610:	1,070
Total.....	59,927:	46,025:	68,353:	59,013:	68,915:	97,226

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Total Germany. 3/ Less than .5 ton.

